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On The Cover: Illustration by William Reiser.
(Plus our apologies to Willie Middlebrook. Last week's cover photo was by him and not by Jeffrey Scales.)

Letters

Dear Editor:

The edit job done on my Olympic Auditorium cover story (Aug. 29-Sept. 4) was easily the worst I've received in 15 years as a goddam pro. Aside from fucking with my style in a major way at least once per paragraph, you committed numerous content atrocities that so altered the nature of the piece that, had I known in advance, I would have insisted you remove my byline. To wit:

1. You did everything in your power to make the story look racist, putting words in my copy like "Jap" and "foreigner" and deleting an entire section that supplied the context for an unlikely surge of anti-black hostility on the part of the arena's Chicano contingent (Thomas Hearns, an American black, had knocked out Pipino Cuevas, a Mexican national idol, the Saturday before), thus giving the impression that I am accusing Chicanos of habitual eruptions of ethnic antagonism.

2. Your heavy deletions of copy from my actual coverage of the various fights not only took all the drama out of "the human drama of athletic decomposition" but, in one instance, left a fight hanging in an early round — then suddenly ending — giving the impression to several fight-fan friends of mine (and I'm sure others) that I was describing a four-rounder when in fact I was dealing with a ten.

3. *Your* cover line, "L.A.'s Theater of the Crude," taken in combo with the way you saw fit to editorially refocus my basic message, suggests that I'm talking about some sort of sleazy *jungle*. Article as I wrote it was a joyful tribute to the L.A. landmark I revere above all others, a glorious "theater of life" you've succeeded in degrading to the level of liberal muck-rake slime.

—Richard Meltzer

Because of the necessity to edit for space reasons under deadline pressure, we did make errors, for which we apologize.—ed.

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Editorial and Advertising offices of the *L.A. Weekly* (USPS #611370 at 5225 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90027. (213) 463-6911. Published weekly. Subscription price $60.00 per year. Controlled circulation postage paid at Los Angeles. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to L.A. Weekly at 5225 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90027. Submissions of all kind are welcomed. Please address to the editor and include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Copyright 1980, *Los Angeles Weekly, Inc.* All rights reserved.

Insights

A Police Victory, Of Sorts

The effort by various local organizations to get a Police Review Board on the November ballot has bogged down in infighting among the groups, leaving them far short of the number of petition signatures needed. With only 70,000 of the needed 150,000 signatures claimed to be in hand, the Campaign for a Citizens Police Review Board has issued an "urgent" appeal for volunteers to round up signatures. Behind the lagging effort are fights over strategy and leadership. In particular, the Coalition Against Police Abuse, which has considerable support in the black community, successfully fought other participating groups over creating a campaign organization led by public figures with wide support throughout Los Angeles, like Ramona Ripston of the ACLU. Rather than surrender control of the battle to stop police brutality to outsiders, CAPA chose to organize the signature drive itself within the existing coalition. Nearly one year later, the results are that it's unlikely that Los Angelenos will get to vote this November on whether they want civilians to review police shootings and complaints of brutality or leave it to the LAPD itself.

Not For Prime Time

A number of CBS TV stations have kicked off the always interesting tussle over which political spots can get on the air and which can't by rejecting a pro-Ronald Reagan commercial put together by a group called Fund For A Conservative Majority. A typical rejected spot showed actors disguised as Fidel Castro, the Ayatollah Khomeini, an Arab sheik and a Soviet general pushing around a dummy Uncle Sam. At the end, a real Uncle Sam stands up and introduces Reagan. The CBS stations refused the spots as being too controversial, too crude and simplistic. Given Reagan's recent remarks about evolution, China, the Ku Klux Klan, etc., it'll be interesting to see whether CBS bans the candidate himself.

More On Runyon Canyon

The latest on the rape of Runyon Canyon: Adad Corp., the mysterious firm that wants to turn one of the remaining pockets of pristine land in the Hollywood Hills into tract housing, has started felling trees on the property even though its plans have yet to be sanctioned by the City Council. The firm seems confident that it'll be given the go-ahead, though — they recently sent axemen into the canyon to begin clearing trees that aren't protected by law. As reported in the *Weekly* last November, Adad intends to turn the former home of Errol Flynn and Huntington Hartford into a superluxury housing estate — a move hotly opposed by environmentalists, who'd like to preserve the area as a park.

Short Takes

Bob Dylan reportedly has asked CBS to order all copies of his *Saved* album recalled from record stores because he doesn't like the way it sounds on the radio. CBS sources said it would be impossible but the publicity might stir a curiosity rush of sales of the otherwise

slow-moving LP ... The Boston *Globe* says that at least 25 percent of the 19 to 20 year olds eligible to register for the draft in July failed to do so. That's about one million draft dodgers ... Since no local publication has yet reprinted the details of a U.S. invasion of Iran which Jack Anderson reported in his now famously censored column of two weeks ago, it goes like this: grab Kharg Island, the site of Iran's petroleum terminal, and hold it in return for the hostages while moving in a four-carrier task force. The White House has denied that Carter plans an invasion in October.

Plympton

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